

nor their dissent any other impression than that of their incapacity to judge. If his feeling took the distinct form of a reflection, it would be, Mine is the business of comprehending and devising, and I am here to rule this company, and not to consult them ; I want their docility, and not their arguments; I am come, not to seek their assistance in thinking, but to determine their concurrence in executing what is already thought for them. Of course, many suggestions and reasons which appear important to those they come from will be disposed of by him with a transient attention, or a light facility, that will seem very disrespectful to persons who possibly hesitate to admit that he is a demi-god, and that they are but idiots. Lord Chatham, in going out of the House of Commons, just as one of the speakers * against him concluded his speech by emphatically urging what he perhaps rightly thought the unanswerable question, " *Where* can we find means to support such a war ? " turned round a moment, and gaily chanted, " Gentle shepherd tell me where ? "

Even the assenting convictions, and practical compliances, yielded by degrees to this decisive man, may be somewhat undervalued; as they will appear to him no more than simply coming, and that very slowly, to a right apprehension ; whereas *he* understood and decided justly from the first, and has been right all this while.

He will be in danger in rejecting the just claims of charity for a little tolerance to the prejudices, hesitation, and timidity, of those with whom he has to act. He will say to himself, I wish there were anything like manhood among the beings called men ; and that they could have the sense and spirit not to let themselves be hampered by so many silly notions and childish fears ! Why cannot they either determine with some promptitude, or let me, that can, do it for them ? Am I to wait till debility become strong, and folly wise ?—If full scope be allowed to these tendencies, they may give too much of the character of a tyrant to even a man of elevated virtue, since, in the consciousness of the right intention and the assurance of the wise contrivance, of his designs, he will hold himself

* The speaker was Mr. George Grenville, who barely escaped the sobriquet of Gentle Shepherd for the rest of his life.